THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Occasional complaints of refusal to play and of overcharging by taxi and scooter drivers are received from Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations.

(c) The Delhi Traffic Police performs duty at the Railway Stations round the clock.

(d) A drive has been launched at all the public places including railway stations by the Delhi Traffic Police in this regard. In the first three months of 1987 288 challans for refusal were booked. Moreover, notices are being sent to three-wheeler Scooter and taxi drivers for complaints of overcharging. Announcements are also made on the public address system and complaint cards/fare charts are distributed among the public to avoid over-charging.

Reclamation of wasteland by private companies

397. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit private companies to take up reclamation of waste land in the country in pursuance of the recommendations made by the National Waste Land Development Board;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated area of degraded forest land and other degraded land likely to be covered under the reclamation programme;

(d) what is the estimated population dependent on forests which is likely to be affected as a result thereof; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to rehabilitate the affected population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) The Central Government are not promoting the entry of private companies to take up the reclamation of wasteland inside forests. The proposals in each State for afforestation of wastelands are dealt with by the State Governments concerned.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Release of an Indian arrested in Saudi Arabia

398. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian who was arrested in Saudi Arabia for carrying with him a copy of the Satyarth Prakash, some time ago, has since been released;

(b) whether the Indian Embassy took up the matter with the said Government;

(c) whether he was released *suo moto* on intervention or he was convicted; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the case?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information about the arrest of the person was brought to the notice of the Ministry only in June, 1986 by the President of the Sarvadeshik Arya Prathinidhi Sabha, New Delhi. The Indian Embassy in Riyadh immediately took up the matter with the Saudi authorities. It has since been learnt that the person had

been released and deported to India in June 1986.

(d) One Shri Ram Kumar Bhardwaj, an employee in K.K.M.C. Five Thousand Area Dhallahcoy (a Construction Company), Daharan, Saudi Arabia was arrested by Saudi authorities early in 1986. Shri Bhardwaj wrote to President of Sarvadeshik Arya Prathinidhi Sabha, New Delhi, stating that he was taken into custody for possessing a copy of "Satyarth Prakash" written by Swami Dayanand Saraswati. The President of the Sabha in turn took up the matter with the Ministry. Shri Bhardwaj also wrote to PM regarding his detention.

Our Embassy in Riyadh took up the matter with the Saudi Foreign Office for intervention with the authorities concerned for the early release of Shri Bhardwaj in case he had flauted the Saudi Laws out of ignorance. Our Ambassador also met the Saudi Deputy Minister of the Interior subsequently in this regard. Shri Bhardwaj was released from detention and deported from Dahran International Airport on 19 June, 1986.

According to the Deputy Minister of Interior, Shri Bhardwaj was arrested because he started preaching to the other people in the camp in which he was working with the help of the religious literature he had brought with him.

Protection of Farm Labour

399. SHR KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made to define and protect the rights of farm labour;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring forward any legislation on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Various Labour Laws like Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Wages Act, Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act etc. are meant to protect the rights and interests of workers, including farm labour.

(c) No, Sir.

Settlement of Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute

400. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to take any initiative for 'outside the Court settlement' of the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government have no such proposal under consideration at present.

Opening of Show Rooms by NTC in North Eastern Region

401. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of show Rooms of National Textile Corporation in the North Eastern Region at present;

(b) whether Government are considering to open new show rooms in